Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1-60. (cancelled)

61. (currently amended) A method of accelerating receipt of data in a ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, wherein a first client of the network operates a software program which implements a query to at least two other clients and each of said at least two other clients of the network provides solely a portion of a response to the query, whereby the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions to the first client from the at least two other clients, the method comprising:

(a) monitoring, at an acceleration server operatively connected to the ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, all communications on a communication channel to and from said first client to identify communications containing said query and said response portions;

(b) intercepting, from among all said communications on said communication channel, the query and the response portions to the first client from the at least two other clients, wherein said intercepting is performed by said acceleration server and is transparent to said first client and to said at least two other clients;

(c) aggregating by said acceleration server the response portions into the response from the at least two other clients; and

(d) transmitting at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server transparently to the first client.

62. (currently amended) The method of claim 61, wherein said intercepting the query and the response portions is performed by a plurality of acceleration servers operatively connected to the ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, and different response portions are intercepted by each acceleration server.

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 61, wherein another acceleration server is a client of the ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, the method further comprising:

(e) relaying solely a portion of the response from said another acceleration server to said acceleration server.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said acceleration server is further operatively connected to a server of a client-server network, whereby said intercepting reduces traffic through said server.

65. (currently amended) The method of claim 61, wherein said intercepting the query and the response portions is performed by transparently redirecting the query and the response portions.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said redirecting is performed by a layer 4 switch.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said acceleration server has a location that is one of: in a local area network, in a server at a cable television provider junction, at a satellite relay link, or within an ADSL junction.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said query includes a request for data and the response includes said data.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said data is in a format selected from the group of file types consisting of MP3, DVid, MPEG-2, MPEG-1, M-JPEG, MPEG-4, ActiveMovie/Video for Windows (.avi), QuickTime(.mov), RealVideo(.rm and .ram), H263.1, HTML, Flash, Gif, Tif, mpeguide and exe.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising , prior to said transmitting:

(e) analyzing the response portions based on at least one variable; and

(f) storing the response portions based on said at least one variable.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said variable is selected from the group consisting of temporal information, ordinal information, frequency information, client information and identification information.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising , prior to said transmitting:

(e) analyzing a direction of the response portions in accordance with a cache policy, wherein said cache policy is selectably either unidirectional or bidirectional.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising , prior to said transmitting:

(e) checking availability of at least one other client of the at least two other clients prior to said intercepting said response portion from said at least one other said client.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said checking availability further includes

checking availability of requested data stored on said at least one other client.

75. (currently amended) An acceleration server, operatively connected to a ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network wherein a first client of the network operates a software program which implements a query to at least two other clients and each of said at least two other clients of the network provides solely a portion of a response to the query, whereby the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions to the first client from said at least two other clients, the acceleration server comprising:

(a) a monitoring mechanism which monitors all communications on a communication channel to and from said first client to identify communications containing said query and said response portions;

(b) an interception mechanism which intercepts, from among all said communications on said communication channel, the query and the response portions to the first client from the at least two other said clients;

(c) an aggregation mechanism which aggregates the response portions into the response from said at least two other clients; and

(d) a transmission mechanism which transmits at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server to said first client; wherein:

said acceleration server is transparent to said first client and said at least two other clients.

76. (currently amended) The acceleration server according to claim 75, wherein said interception mechanism includes a transparent redirecting device.

77. (previously presented) The acceleration server according to claim 75, further comprising:

(e) a processing mechanism which checks availability of at least one other client of said at least two other clients, prior to intercepting the response portions from said at least one other said client, and analyzes the response portions based on at least one variable.

78. (previously presented) The acceleration server according to claim 77, wherein said at least one variable is selected from the group consisting of temporal information, ordinal information, frequency information, client information and identification information.

79. (previously presented) The acceleration server according to claim 77, further comprising:

(e) a storage mechanism which stores the query and the response portions.

80. (currently amended) A machine-readable storage medium encoded with instructions executable by a machine to perform a method for accelerating receipt of data in a ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, wherein a first client of the network operates a software program which implements a query to at least two other clients and each of said at least two other clients of the network provides solely a portion of a response to the query, wherein the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions to the first client from said at least two other clients, the method comprising:

(a) monitoring, at an acceleration server operatively connected to the ~~client~~ peer-to-peer ~~client~~ network, all communications on a communication channel to and from said first client to identify communications containing said query and said response portions;

(b) intercepting, from among all said communications on said communication channel, the query and the response portions to the first client from the at least

two other said clients, wherein said intercepting is performed by said acceleration server and is transparent to said first client and to said at least two other clients;

(c) aggregating by said acceleration server the response portions into the response from said at least two other clients; and

(d) transmitting at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server transparently to said client.